

Media Advisory

Secretary of State
State of Louisiana



Al Ater
Secretary of State

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ATER TO BREAK GROUND AT TIOGA HERITAGE MUSEUM

Baton Rouge – Secretary of State Al Ater will kickoff renovations of the Tioga Heritage Park Museum with a groundbreaking ceremony at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 25.

Renovation of the 5,000-square-foot commissary building will allow the museum board to utilize the facility for meetings and other functions. Following the renovations, the 113-year-old building will house the museum's main exhibit focusing on central Louisiana's timber and railway industries.

Constructed in 1892, the commissary served as a sawmill, and later operated as a general merchandise store. Integral to the town's operation, the building also housed the Tioga Post Office for several years.

In July of 2001, a group of concerned residents formed the Tioga Historical Society with the purpose of saving the historical building. The museum was added to the Secretary of State's Museum Program during the 2003 legislative session, and is believed to be one of the last surviving structures of its kind in the state.

Currently, the complex consists of a circa 1920 barber shop, three early 20th century farm structures and a miniature museum featuring a display of ceramic dogs.

A second miniature museum, chronicling the history of the telemessaging industry, is currently under construction and is scheduled to open later this year. LaVergne Turpin of Alexandria, a member of the museum's governing board, donated both miniature buildings.

The Heritage Society of Tioga is currently gathering artifacts and developing exhibits that celebrate the unique history of the area. Adjacent acreage will be used to establish a walking tour of outdoor exhibits and a picnic area.

The public and media are invited to the groundbreaking at the Tioga Heritage Museum and Park, located at 1301 Tioga Road adjacent to the railroad track in Tioga. For more information on the Tioga Heritage Park and Museum visit www.sos.louisiana.gov/museums.

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